

Memo

To: Economic Development Authority
From: Brad Meier, President/CEO
Date: 05/20/2020
Re: OACCT Economic Development Update

Economic Development

- **See attached report for leads and 'in progress' reports.**

Workforce

- Hosted 5 live zoom calls with different Ag & Natural Resource sectors. 15-20 students on each call.
- Anisha is working with 65 students currently.

OPED

- Continues to meet weekly and has shifted into Covid-19 mode for the time being. Retaining business is good economic development.
- OPED first contributor to the JumpStart Owatonna Initiative (I'll provide more details in the meeting)

Retention/Expansion

- Hosted industry sector zoom calls with mid size industries, large employers, salons/hair/cosmotology/health and wellness, and small retail.

Covid 19/Coronavirus

- Safe Shop Zone Initiative
- Written plan template for business
- JumpStart Owatonna
- Hospitality Video
- MainStreet Grants for downtown businesses (6)
- Resource page at www.owatonna.org/covid-19-resources
- StrongerTogether FB Page

| Company | Date of Inquiry | Service Provided | Follow ups | Conclusion | Project Outcome: Green (progressing), yellow (probable); red (not moving) |
|--|-----------------|---|--|--|---|
| Daycare Center | 1/2/2020 | Looking for a location to start a daycare center in Owatonna. | Provided several options in the 1,000 sq ft size. | | Yellow |
| Women's Boutique | 12/9/2019 | Individual moving to town with her spouse who is working at Rise Modular and wants to move Boutique to Owatonna downtown. | Provided some contacts for possible 1,500 sq ft of space for her business and answered some permitting questions. 01/02/2020 talked about location options- she is going into the army/navy location on Oak. | | Green |
| Downtown Hotel | | Continued conversations around a project on the 200 block of N Cedar | | | Yellow |
| Axe Throwing Business | 2/5/2020 | Met with new owner about his desire to open a business next to MSB along the river. | Connecting him with MSB owners and checking with city on the carry in liquor law. | | Green |
| Therapist Group | 2/14/2020 | connection that a group was looking at the former Caterpillar building. | outreach to building owner. Building sold. | | Yellow |
| Pop Up Men's Clothing | 4/10/2020 | Want to open a pop up business in downtown Sept-Dec to test the market | Provided property options and contacts. | | Green |
| Asphalt Plan | 3/30/2020 | Working with local business to help in conversations with city team to identify a proper location at the appropriate price. | Troy/Greg have tentative agreement. | | Green |
| Concrete Plant | 4/2/2020 | Took a call from a business that is interested in providing concrete competition in Owatonna and looking for land in the industrial park. | Directed him to Greg/Troy at city for appropriate location. | | Yellow |
| Local Existing Hotel | Continuous | On going conversations with the owner of the hotel and a local businessman who might have interest in purchasing. | Providing on-going updates around hotel situation in the community and possible next steps. | | Yellow |
| Locate a construction/sales office | | | | | Green |
| Home health business looking to expand from Mankato into Owatonna area | | Looking for 600 sq ft office plus shared services of reception and board room. | Discussed Development Center and also shared few other spots that have this as an option. | She is coming to Owatonna next week to look at space | Green |
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